

ABSTRACT

A swivel caster having a top mounting member for attachment to the bottom of a vehicle and a bottom caster member having a caster wheel support extending downwardly therefrom with a caster wheel at the free end thereof. The bottom member has a stub shaft extending toward the top member, the top member having a circular bore for receiving the free end of the stub shaft and a counterbore concentric about the bore. A stock thrust ball bearing is press fit mounted in the counterbore about the stub shaft, the thrust ball bearing mounted to transfer load from the top member to the bottom member. The caster has a second bearing means comprising a ring of loose balls mounted in an annular raceway, with part of the raceway formed in the circular wall defining the bore and part of the raceway formed in the stub shaft. The second bearing means permits rotation of the bottom member relative to the top member and also retains the stub shaft in the circular bore to connect the top and bottom members together.